



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
May 4, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, the Long Lake City Council attended the meeting telephonically pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.021.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, Gina Joyce, and Deirdre Kvale

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; Public Works Director: Sean Diercks; Fire Chief: James Van Eyll; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS – LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES

Mayor Miner reported that prior to the regular meeting, the Council had met in a work session where they reviewed a draft of a Master Sewer and Water Agreement that will ultimately be presented to the City of Orono. He explained that currently there are about 13 separate agreements for water and sewer connections and the goal is to consolidate those agreements into one.

In other news, on April 29, 2021 the City celebrated the long career of Public Works employee Don "Bean" Gaspar who retired after serving over 45 years with the City from October 1, 1975 through April 30, 2021.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all by roll call.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of April 20, 2021 City Council Meeting
- B. Receive Unofficial Draft Minutes of April 13, 2021 Planning Commission Meeting
- C. Receive Unofficial Draft Minutes of April 5, 2021 Park Board Meeting
- D. Receive Unofficial Draft Minutes of April 20, 2021 Economic Development Authority Meeting
- E. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- F. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-20 Accepting a Donation to the Long Lake Fire Department in the Amount of \$7,450 From the Long Lake Fire Relief Association to Purchase Two Sets of Kodiak Stabilization Kits and Accessory Kits with One Kodiak Lifting Device
- G. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-21 Appointing Anthony David to the Position of Park Board Member

*A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Miner, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Ayes: all by roll call.*

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Thomas Joyce, 1200 Wayzata Boulevard W, indicated that he has comments related to the Diamond Lake Regional Trail and asked if he would be able to speak during that agenda item or whether he should share his comments under Open Correspondence.

Mayor Miner invited Mr. Joyce to comment after the presentation regarding the Diamond Lake Regional Trail.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Diamond Lake Regional Trail (DLRT) Project Update – Stephen Shurson, Three Rivers Park District

Stephen Shurson, Three Rivers Park District, introduced Stewart Crosby from SRF and provided a presentation on a route update proposal surrounding the Diamond Lake Regional Trail (DLRT). He explained that their goal for this trail is to create a destination type trail that offers a scenic, park-like experience for users while connecting to the regional and local facilities and amenities. He clarified that this is a Master Plan project and not an imminent construction project, noting that it will likely take decades to piece together the right-of-way and various agreements to fully realize the trail. He shared that thus far they have received approval from Wayzata, Rogers, and Dayton. Medina did not grant support for any of their proposed routes and asked the Three Rivers Park District to consider a new route along Hamel Road. He presented the potential revised route as suggested by Medina.

Stewart Crosby, SRF, gave a more detailed review of the proposed revised route that would travel through Long Lake, utilizing existing trail facilities including the Wayzata Boulevard W trail. He stated that if this trail proposal were approved, they would like to work on making a safer mid-block crossing with some sort of rapid flashing beacon for the crossing near the lake. He stated that Three Rivers Park District would maintain the trail and would also be prepared to provide a stipend to the communities for winter trail maintenance.

Mr. Shurson stated that the benefit of this to the City would be that Three Rivers Park District would take on the ownership responsibilities, operational responsibilities and maintenance responsibilities. The only portion that would be City responsibility would be the plowing during the winter months and the District would be providing a stipend for that work.

Mr. Crosby mentioned that if the Wayzata Boulevard W trail becomes a regional trail, Three Rivers Park District will be adding signage and wayfinding along the corridor.

Mayor Miner asked if a portion of the Luce Line Trail would be paved as part of this project.

Mr. Shurson replied that what they had heard from the public was they would like to see it left as aggregate material, and their plan is for it to remain so.

Council member Dyvik questioned whether maintenance responsibilities would include grass along the path or just the actual paved portion of the path.

Mr. Shurson clarified that it would just cover the paved portion of the path.

Council member Dyvik asked who currently owned the trail.

Weske clarified that the Wayzata Boulevard W trail is owned by the City.

Council member Dyvik inquired if it was still in the plans for the County to put in a trail to the west in order to have a trail that goes all the way to County Road 6.

Weske recalled that had been the original plan; however, he believes that the project has gotten moved to 2023. He stated that his assumption is that they will eventually continue the trail all the way out because Orono's dog park is in that area.

Mr. Shurson explained that after the Master Plan has been completed, they will work with each City to develop a cooperative agreement that would identify that Three Rivers Park District would be the owner and operator of the trail which means they will be responsible for maintenance. He added that he views the arrangement as a partnership because they would work in concert with the City.

Council member Dyvik commented that the new proposed route is a fairly large detour around the original proposed location, and asked why Medina hadn't supported the original proposal.

Mr. Shurson responded that there were a lot of private property concerns as well as concerns about loss of privacy. He stated that the bottom line was that the Medina City Council came to the conclusion that there wasn't enough support for any of the identified routes.

Thomas Joyce, 1200 Wayzata Boulevard W, indicated that he was attending the meeting as a concerned citizen and not a representative of the Park Board. He stated that he would like to broadcast an alternative option to what is being proposed. He indicated that he has concerns with safety should the DLRT go through downtown Long Lake, because there is no doubt that additional traffic would be occurring through the corridor with bikers, walkers, and runners. He also wondered whether the trail proposal is a missed opportunity. He noted that while he is excited about the project, oftentimes the tendency is to go for the path of least resistance and he would like to suggest an alternative route that he felt would add a ton of value for the Long Lake/Orono community while providing an enhanced trail system for everybody locally. He shared two images depicting his proposed route and gave an overview of what he felt his proposal would do for the community: fulfill the Orono City Council's desire; provide a circuit around Long Lake; provide walkability for two scientific areas; and increase property value along County Road 6 because there will be a walking path. He requested the Council give consideration to the alternate route proposal he had shared to prevent a missed opportunity.

Council member Dyvik pointed out that people may be afraid to cross County Road 6 because of the speed of traffic.

Mr. Joyce stated that he had brought this up briefly at the Park Board meeting and that was one of the concerns mentioned, but at the end of the day, he thinks the City would rather see the investment go into creating this possibility because of the value it would create. He added that he believes the benefits would outweigh the costs.

Council member Joyce asked if the speed limit slows down in proximity to the middle school.

Fire Chief Van Eyll responded that the speed limit does not slow down; however, the four-way stop does slow traffic a bit at the County Road 6 and Willow Drive intersection.

Mr. Shurson confirmed Mr. Joyce was correct that Orono was supportive of the trail, though as long as it was done within the right-of-way. They were very concerned about the impact to the Wolsfeld Woods SNA and did not want to get close to it with a bike trail. He indicated that the concern was that if the trail came close to the SNA, people may be tempted to enter the area illegally on the

bicycles and cause damage. He stated that Three Rivers Park District's goal was also to be close to it, but Orono did not want that.

There was discussion about various alternate routes and their pros and cons.

Council member Dyvik questioned whether there were statistics available with regard to how much traffic would increase if the existing trail was converted to a regional trail.

Mr. Shurson replied that projections would be calculated as they move forward with the Master Plan, but he did not have that information currently.

Kelly Grissman, Director of Planning for Three Rivers Park District, indicated that they can take a look and do some quick projections as to what use numbers may be like compared to other similar trails that would go through an urban area.

Council member Kvale inquired about parking for people who wanted to have access to the trail.

Mr. Shurson responded that as part of the Master Plan, they will take a look at trail head parking options and noted that they are considering a location in Wayzata.

Council member Joyce shared that one of the conversations at the Park Board meeting was that between the Wayzata Boulevard W trail and Wurzer Trail, the Wurzer Trail seems more like a park, so she was leaning more towards that as an option. She asked Mr. Shurson if there could be any action taken to look into the option presented by Mr. Joyce.

Ms. Grissman stated that they have talked about it, they really believe that proposal will be an uphill battle, and it would be difficult to get Orono to support it because there would be private property impacts that would extend outside of the right-of-way. She noted that they got 'beat up' in Medina about having trails anywhere near the SNA and she felt that there would be backlash to putting forth Mr. Joyce's proposal.

Council member Kvale observed that while the trail may be a positive for commerce in the City, she has concerns about parking for people who want to access the trail.

Council member Feldmann indicated he would echo that concern and noted that he would like to see the projected traffic numbers.

The Council discussed parking and safety concerns in the proposed trail corridor.

Mr. Shurson stated that if the Council was okay with the general plan, their next step would be to engage with residents in Long Lake and Orono for the next six to seven weeks. He provided an overview of some of their engagement activities.

Council member Kvale questioned whether the other proposed route could be included in the public engagement in order to give them more information about what other routes have been considered.

City Clerk Moeller suggested that Mr. Shurson may want to take into consideration the senior living and multi-family housing projects that will be coming to the area on Wayzata Boulevard W when they are putting together trail use projections.

Ms. Grissman indicated that she does not think Three Rivers Park District can comfortably present County Road 6 as a viable option because they know there will be private property impacts and the Orono City Council has already gone on record in giving direction that they are not to consider or

move forward with anything that would have impact on private property. She noted that there is also not public support to have bicycling anywhere near the Wolsfeld Woods SNA. She clarified that if that is something that the Long Lake City Council was interested in, the Orono City Council would also need to be involved and she believes they would be most comfortable going back to them to make sure they are also comfortable with having that option. She added that they would love to connect this community with the greater regional trail and park system, but they are not here to force a proposal on the City Council that they are not comfortable with and can always pivot, like they just did with Medina, and find other communities that may want to partner with them.

Council member Kvale suggested that part of the public engagement process be to ask if the public has any idea for parking.

Mr. Shurson stated that following the public engagement process, they will summarize the comments and the analysis and bring it back before the Park Board and then the City Council sometime this summer for action.

Council member Dyvik emphasized that he does not want the public communication to be worded in a way that implies that the Council has already supported this because he is not sure where he stands as of yet. He indicated that he still needs a lot more information before he would be prepared to make a decision.

Council member Feldmann agreed and noted that his biggest concerns are around traffic and parking.

Council member Dyvik affirmed that safety is also a big concern for him.

Public Works Director Diercks noted that there are utilities under the existing trail. If the Three Rivers Park District takes over the trail and retains ownership, the City will still need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week access, and he would want to make sure that this point would be addressed in all agreements.

Receive 1st Quarter 2021 YTD Preliminary Revenues and Expenditures

Weske provided a brief overview of the highlights of the 2021 year to date preliminary revenues and expenditures for 1st quarter and answered Council questions.

Moeller noted that Finance/Utilities Officer Amanda Nowezki is more than happy to answer questions or explain things in greater detail to any Council members who may be interested in additional information.

Council member Dyvik asked if future cover reports could include a summary section that highlights what is good or areas of concern with regard to the revenues and expenditures.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Dyvik, to receive 1st Quarter 2021 Preliminary Revenues and Expenditures as of April 26, 2021, as presented. Ayes: all by roll call.

City Hall Council Chambers Window Replacement and Repair

Diercks reported that staff has reached out to about 25 different contractors, about six showed up, and of those only two or three actually gave a bid for replacement of the Council Chambers window and repair work. He noted that the low bid presents a unique circumstance where the contractor is requesting a \$4,500 down payment for the special window rather than the usual net 30 payment standard. He stated that he was not comfortable approving that arrangement without Council authorization to do so.

Council and staff discussed the window flashing failure and the type of window that will be used to replace it.

A motion was made by by Feldmann, seconded by Joyce, to approve the proposal from Riverside Construction to replace the window and repair damaged wood framing, insulation, and sheetrock adjacent to the east wall half oval window at the Long Lake City Hall Council Chambers totaling \$7,158.00, to include a \$4,500.00 down payment to Riverside Construction to order the window as requested by contractor, leaving a \$2,658.00 balance due upon completion. Ayes: all by roll call.

Update on Fire Department Discussions

Mayor Miner advised that there have been three meetings thus far to discuss potential future Fire Department options. He noted that he had spoken to the firefighters last night at their weekly meeting to give them an update on discussions to date. He reported that the City has received official notification from Orono that they will cease fire services with Long Lake effective at the end of 2025 and will terminate the relationship related to Station 1 at that same time.

OTHER BUSINESS

DLRT Trail Proposal - Council member Joyce commented that she is looking forward to receiving further data and projected traffic numbers surrounding the proposed Three Rivers Park District Trail. She asked if the Council would have the opportunity to discuss the information at a work session so that a decision doesn't have to be made on the fly, in front of Three Rivers Park District personnel. Mayor Miner indicated that he thought it would make sense to discuss the matter further in a work session setting. Later under Other Business, Administrator Weske mentioned that with relation to the trail discussion, the City paid 50% of the trail's construction and did bond for it, so there is debt associated with the trail. He recalled that Three Rivers Park District had discussed purchasing right-of-way and he felt the City should look at requiring some compensation for use of the Wayzata Boulevard W trail if the Council decides to permit this. He noted that he was uncertain if this would deter their direction, but he believes that it should be a conversation with them. He agreed that the topic also deserves greater discussion at a work session as Council member Joyce and Mayor Miner had suggested.

Retirement Celebration - Diercks thanked the Council and staff that helped with the celebration of Bean Gaspar's retirement.

Update on Fire Damaged Property - Moeller provided an update on the status of the fire damaged property at 1138 Underhill Circle and noted that the property owners have until May 23, 2021 to request a building permit.

Landscaping Project for Station 1 - Van Eyll reported that with the help of Public Works last year, a landscaping project had begun at Station 1. This year, the contractor will be installing plants which should be completed by tomorrow.

Parking Issue on Symes Street - Mayor Miner indicated that he understood staff is working to address a parking issue along Symes Street. Diercks explained that staff will be taking down the existing signage and putting up two signs to make it clear that there is no parking anytime in the affected area.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator